



# Branching Out

December 4, 2009

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia.

## **TREE meetings:**

Tuesday, January 12, at Friends of the Rappahannock in Fredricksburg.

We will be nominating new officers. Please send nominations to [charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov)

President: Preside at meetings, develop agenda, and represent organization at Virginia Environmental Education conference and other events.

Vice-President: Presides at meetings in president's absence, helps develop programs for meetings.

Secretary: Take notes at meetings, compile minutes, and forward e-mail announcements to members

Publicity chair: New office. Will publicize meetings and organization to media and potential members.

## **Local Events:**

### **Grasses for the Masses**

You can help restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's rivers by participating in CBF's Grasses for the Masses program. Volunteers in the program grow wild celery, a type of underwater grass, in small tubs in their homes for 10 weeks, then help plant the grasses in local rivers to boost the population of this critical Bay resource.

It is a fun and easy way to improve water quality! CBF provides the equipment, instructions and support needed for growing the grasses.

Underwater grasses, also known as submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), help the Bay in a number of ways:

- They provide food and shelter for young crabs, rockfish, speckled trout, shellfish, and many more aquatic creatures.
- They provide food for ducks, geese and swans.
- They help clear the water and stabilize the sediments that are already on the bottom of the Bay.
- They filter pollution that runs into the Bay.
- They slow wave action and reduce shoreline erosion.
- They produce oxygen necessary for aquatic life.
- They take up nitrogen and phosphorus pollution that can cause fish kills, algal blooms,

and dead zones in the Bay.

Scientists estimate there once were hundreds of thousands of acres of underwater grasses growing in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, helping to make the Bay one of the world's most productive estuaries. However, grasses have declined dramatically over the past several decades, primarily because of poor water clarity caused by pollution. Excessive nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution has clouded the Bay's water, blocking the sunlight vital for the grasses' growth. In 2006, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science mapped only 59,160 acres of underwater grasses Baywide, a decline of 25 percent from the year before. Grass abundance didn't improve during 2007.



**Sign up today--** space in upcoming workshops is limited.

**Workshop schedule:**

**Gloucester Grasses Workshop** – Here is when we will do a Grasses informational presentation, take the program fee and pass out materials.

**Where:** Whitcomb Lodge at Beaverdam Park

8687 Roaring Springs Rd  
Gloucester, Virginia 23061

**Date:** February 20, 2010

**Time:** 10:00AM - 12:30PM

**Program Fee:** There is a \$40/grass unit program fee which helps us to continue the program and to provide equipment for grass growers across the state.

**Sign Up Today:** space in upcoming workshops is limited! To reserve your spot, please email Bill Walker at [wcwalker@inna.net](mailto:wcwalker@inna.net). For more information on CBF and the Grasses program, please visit [www.cbf.org/grasses](http://www.cbf.org/grasses). You can also contact or call Bill Walker at 804-693-6540 if you have any questions.

## **Free tools and other cool stuff:**

### **Register today for National Environmental Education Week April 11-17, 2010 and Be Water and Energy Wise**

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week, [www.eeweek.org](http://www.eeweek.org)) connects educators with environmental resources to promote K-12 students' understanding of the environment. Held each year the week before Earth Day, EE Week is the nation's largest environmental education event.

Our nation's water and energy resources are increasingly relevant topics of discussion in today's media, classrooms and homes. Recognizing the importance of conserving both water and energy in order to protect the planet and reduce costs, and acknowledging the interdependence between water and energy, EE Week's 2010 theme is Be Water and Energy Wise!

When you register for EE Week, you will join a national network of educators dedicated to increasing the environmental literacy of K-12 students. You will also receive certificates of participation, free online resources, information on professional development and funding opportunities, and access to discounts and special offers on educational materials just for EE Week participants. Register today at [www.eeweek.org/register](http://www.eeweek.org/register).

**Questions?** Email [EEWeek@neefusa.org](mailto:EEWeek@neefusa.org) or call 202-261-6484.

## **Grants, Volunteers, and Funding:**

### **Grants Encourage Wildlife Conservation**

#### **Wildlife Forever**

The mission of Wildlife Forever is to preserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat, and management of fish and wildlife. Grants from Wildlife Forever support habitat restoration and acquisition, research and management, and educational projects throughout the United States. Special emphasis is placed on grassroots programs that involve local conservation, sportsmen's, or outdoor recreation groups. All Wildlife Forever grants are challenge grants, and funds must be matched on at least a one-to-one basis. The application deadlines for 2010 are January 1 and July 1. Visit the Wildlife Forever website to review the grantmaking criteria and download the application forms.

### **Travel Opportunity for Secondary School Teachers**

#### **Toyota International Teacher Program to Costa Rica**

The Toyota International Teacher Program, administered by the Institute of International Education, offers U.S. secondary school educators the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica from June 18 through July 3, 2010. While in Costa Rica, program participants will meet with environmental and cultural preservation experts, tour museums, participate in activities in the rainforest, and visit rural primary and secondary schools. One of the main goals of the program is to encourage the participants to develop creative teaching strategies for all subject areas using their experiences in Costa Rica. Full-time grade 6-12 teachers and teacher librarians from all 50 states and the District of Columbia are eligible to apply. Applicants must have at least three years of consecutive, full-time

teaching experience. The application deadline is January 6, 2010. Online application information is available on the program's website.

## **Jobs**

### **PR & Mktg Mgr II (Director of Science Education and Public Outreach)**

The University of Virginia's College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences is seeking a Director of Science Education and Public Outreach with a proven track record in educational outreach in the sciences. University outreach in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math is increasingly critical to maintaining U.S. scientific and technological leadership. The College seeks to develop and deploy high performance, evidence-based programs to enable communities throughout Virginia to address their most challenging educational needs. The Director reports to the Associate Dean for Sciences and will also work closely with the Associate Dean of Development and faculty and outreach coordinators in academic departments.

The University of Virginia hosts a prolific community of scientists, engineers, technologists and mathematicians dedicated to conducting breakthrough scientific research. This community is loyal to its dual mission of innovation and education. The Director will seek to harness the strength of faculty and graduate student expertise to benefit the larger community.

Open until filled.

Hiring range: \$40,959 - \$84,062

[https://jobs.agencies.virginia.gov/applicants/jsp/shared/position/JobDetails\\_css.jsp?postingId=399020](https://jobs.agencies.virginia.gov/applicants/jsp/shared/position/JobDetails_css.jsp?postingId=399020)

### **Alliance Position Announcement**

Can you use a video camera and produce short segments to educate and engage people? Have you produced podcasts and managed audio files? Are you familiar with pushing multimedia content out through online sites such as YouTube, Flickr and Facebook? Do you have graphic design skills?

If so, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay needs your skills. We are seeking a Network Administrator to oversee and advance the Chesapeake Network, an on-line networking tool for Chesapeake Bay Restoration professionals and volunteers. Applicants should have one to two years of experience in video and podcast production, online content distribution and graphic design; should be highly organized, exceptionally creative, savvy with technology and self-motivated, as well as have a strong interest in environmental issues and exceptional communication and interpersonal skills. This is a great opportunity for recent college graduates who have hands-on experience working with multimedia hardware and software.

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is a regional nonprofit organization that builds and fosters partnerships to protect and restore the Bay and its rivers. To this end, the Alliance develops methods and tools for restoration activities and trains citizens to use them; mobilizes decision-makers, stakeholders, and other citizens to learn about Bay issues and participate in resolving them; and provides analysis, information, and evaluation of Bay policies, proposals, and institutions.

Please email a resume, work samples and salary requirements to Lou Etgen at [letgen@acb-online.org](mailto:letgen@acb-online.org) by Friday, December 11, 2009.

### **Volunteer Coordinator**

Join our river conservation team! Friends of the Rappahannock is now taking applications for a **Volunteer Coordinator**. This is a one year, full-time, AmeriCorps service position - monthly stipend, education award and health insurance. This is a great opportunity to gain experience in a conservation field. Please visit [www.riverfriends.org](http://www.riverfriends.org) for a full position announcement. Deadline for applying is December 9th, 2009 - start date will be in February 2010.

### **Bridging the Watershed Educator—Part-time**

Interested in making a difference in young people's lives? Help teachers and students in the Potomac Watershed connect to hands-on science in national parks and public lands as a Bridging the Watershed Educator. The Alice Ferguson Foundation seeks an environmental educator to lead field studies and support program operations for this acclaimed partnership with the National Park Service.

The full description can be found at: [http://fergusonfoundation.org/aff\\_jobs.html](http://fergusonfoundation.org/aff_jobs.html).

### **Education Programs Director—Part-time to possible full-time**

Friends of the Rappahannock, the regional voice for a healthy and scenic Rappahannock River, currently has an opening for the position of EDUCATION PROGRAMS DIRECTOR to join our team of dedicated environmental professionals.

We seek a highly self-motivated and visionary educator who shares our passion and mission for reaching youth in the watershed. Our field education programs inspire behavior change to reduce pollution and protect the living resources of the river and its watershed.

For more information please see our [position announcement](#).

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to [charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov)

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Want to be included on the TREE mailings? Contact [faye.andrashko@va.nacdnet.net](mailto:faye.andrashko@va.nacdnet.net)